

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Mike Carpenter

Approved by: Christy L. Kinard

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SHELBY COUNTY DELEGATION AND TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT LEGISLATION ENTITLED THE ENDANGERED MISSING SENIOR ALERT ACT BY AMENDING TITLE 38, CHAPTER 6, PART 1 OF THE TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED. SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER MIKE CARPENTER.**

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**WHEREAS**, Memphis senior citizen Elizabeth Ferguson went missing on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 on her way to a doctor’s appointment, a trip she had made many times before; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ferguson’s family searched for the 86 year-old for more than 6 months before she was found deceased in a wooded area of Shelby County; and

**WHEREAS**, Though her family and law enforcement can never be certain, it is believed that Ms. Ferguson, who suffered from a mild form of dementia, became confused and disoriented and lost her way; and

**WHEREAS**, Because there is no formal alert system and process for endangered missing seniors, local law enforcement did not receive credible leads in the case until four days after Ms. Ferguson was reported missing and not until the story was broadcast on local television stations; and

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Bureau of Investigation has more than 6800 active missing adult cases with approximately half considered to be endangered; and

**WHEREAS**, The first few hours are the most critical to law enforcement successfully finding a missing person and no alert system currently exists in Tennessee for finding a missing senior adult who because of medical condition or other circumstances may be deemed to be endangered; and

**WHEREAS**, Other states have moved to create reasonable missing senior and endangered adult alerts that give discretion to law enforcement, and they do not burden broadcast entities and maintain the integrity of the existing Amber Alert system; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners of Shelby County, Tennessee believes that it is appropriate that a resolution be passed requesting the Tennessee General Assembly to amend Tenn. Code Ann., Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, so as to enact legislation to create an alert system for endangered missing seniors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**, That the Shelby County Delegation and Tennessee General Assembly are requested to support legislation entitled the Endangered Missing Senior Alert Act by amending Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Shelby County Legislative Delegation and members of the Tennessee General Assembly be made aware of this request by copy of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately, the public welfare requiring the same.

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A C Wharton, Jr., County Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

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Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_